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ABSTRACT

Quoted is a brief introduction pointing out the fact that gifted and talented students can benefit from cooperation between education and the business community. (IM)

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54th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
THE COUNCIL FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN
Chicago, Illinois April 4-9, 1976

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY: Partners in Education of Gifted and Talented

Session Leader: Gina Ginsberg, Consultant for the Gifted and Talented, USOE/OHEW, Washington, DC

It gives me great pleasure and personal satisfaction to welcome you to this session which will bring together the American business community and educators of our gifted and talented children.

This is the first time at a CEC Convention that the resources of business and industry are being spelled out and made available as a valuable and relevant component of education.

I perceive education as the filling in a sandwich. On one side, the slice of pumpernickel represents the parents who raise the children from infanthood and who, as their first teachers, have the greatest and most lasting impact on their lives. The other side of bread in the sandwich represents the world of work for which these children have to be prepared.

Education is the tasty filling in the middle of the sandwich, taking the young children from one side and teaching them to take their places in their chosen professions on the other.

Often - like a lettuce sandwich without mayonnaise - the filling does not stick to the bread.

Last year at this Convention I participated in a panel of parents, exploring ways to work together with educators on the parent side of the sandwich.

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During this past year I have become increasingly aware that there is not enough mayonnaise on the other side of the sandwich. Education and the work do not communicate and cooperate as completely as possible to ensure that education is relevant and appropriate for the future of our young people.

With gifted and talented student a desirable mutuality comes into play: education has the young people with the potential to assume leadership positions in all fields as adults, and in our democratic and competitive society the American business community has the practical experience and know-how to cooperate with education to enable our most able youngsters to fulfill themselves and in so doing improve the quality of all our lives.

Business and industry abound with resources in terms of expertise, talent, facilities, materials, and sometimes even money. Every business, industry, service organization, labor union, civic group, foundation, and professional association has education as a top priority.

In the absence of prospects for adequate funding for education of our most able students, I am convinced that their future lies with better utilization of all the good resources the private sector has to offer.

Three good people from business and industry have come here today to tell us what they are willing and able to do for our gifted and talented students. I will introduce them in alphabetical order, and there will be time for your comments and questions.

Today's presentations will be published in the form of a paper in the hope that this first effort will stimulate similar exchanges in the future.